

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	LUL Application for Circle the Globe Production
Proposed Implementation Date:	July 2020
Proponent:	Circle the Globe Production
Location:	Section 16, Township 6 South – Range 3 West (Common School Trust)
County:	Madison County, MT

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Proponent has submitted an LUL application to film a segment of the TV show Expedition X to assist *The Extreme History Project's* continued search for the unknown burial site of George Ives grave. Production will occur for one day during the week of July 22, 2020 through July 28, 2020. No ground disturbance will occur.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

Montana DNRC Archeologist, Patrick Rennie
Madison County Commissioners,

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

No other agencies with jurisdiction or other permits needed

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Action Alternative: Grant a Land Use License (LUL) to Circle the Globe Production to film a segment of the TV show Expedition X to assist *The Extreme History Project's* continued search for the unknown burial site of George Ives grave.

No Action Alternative: Deny a Land Use License (LUL) to Circle the Globe Production to film a segment of the TV show Expedition X to assist *The Extreme History Project's* continued search for the unknown burial site of George Ives grave.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

The NRCS soil survey identifies the soils at this location as Varney Clay Loam. The soils are usually found in alluvial fans, hills and fan terraces. These soils have a land capability classification of 4e. The typical profile is 0 to 5 inches Clay loam, 5-16 inches Gravelly clay loam, 16 to 48 inches, Gravelly sandy clay loam and 48 to 60 inches Stratified gravelly loamy sand to loam. These soils are generally well drained; don't hold moisture on the surface which reduces the amount of erosion activity due to runoff events. The surface is slippery when wet due

to the amount of clay in the top portion of the soil. No long term or cumulative impacts are expected from the issuing of an LUL to film a TV show in the Nevada City Cemetery for one day.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

The cemetery is located on a dry hillside with no surface or groundwater resources present. Issuing a license would not harm water quality in the Nevada City area. No long term or cumulative effects to water quality are anticipated through the issuing of this LUL.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

This project should have little or no impact on air quality in and around Nevada City. No long term or cumulative effects to ambient air quality standards in the area are anticipated from the issuing of this license.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

The current vegetation is native bunch grasses and sage brush. An NRIS search didn't reveal any rare plants or cover types identified in this area. There currently is a spotted knapweed problem with in the cemetery that the Dillon Unit tries to spray at yearly. No long term or cumulative impacts to vegetative cover are anticipated from this proposal.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

An NRIS search of this location didn't identify any threatened or endangered species occurring within the proposal area. The proposal is located near MT Highway 278 and has traffic from the towns of Nevada and Virginia City accessing the transfer station on a gravel road near the proposal. Herman Gulch road receives some traffic during the year and moderate use during the hunting season. The area supports small mammal and bird use, however due to the location of the highway this is not considered prime wildlife or bird habitat. No long term or cumulative impacts to wildlife habitat would occur due to this proposal.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

Although no threatened or endangered species or habitat are identified in the proposal location, the state section does have activity or has the potential for use by the following species; gray wolf, Brewer's sparrow, wolverine, and pygmy rabbit.

Gray Wolf (*Canus Lupus*) Wolves are distributed throughout Southwest Montana. The project would not have any measurable effect on wolf prey or wolves, thus direct, indirect, or cumulative effects are not anticipated.

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*) – Brewer's sparrow is a BLM sensitive species. Per Montana Natural Resource Information Service (NRIS), the species prefers nesting in sagebrush averaging 16 inches in height. The birds may use the area during certain times of the year. The proposed project would not significantly alter

the current vegetative community and the proposal should not alter the vegetation permanently or lead to negative cumulative effects on Brewer's sparrow populations in this area.

Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) – Wolverines are listed as sensitive by both the BLM and USFS. Per Montana Natural Resource Information Service (NRIS) wolverines have been seen within ½ mile of the proposed site. This proposal however, has a small foot print and is located by an existing state highway and homestead which are not considered prime wolverine habitat. Because of this no long term or cumulative impacts to wolverines are anticipated from this proposal.

Pygmy Rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*) Pygmy Rabbit's have been sited within ½ mile north of the proposed project area. The project would not affect the rabbit's habitat because no off road use will occur. The overall impact to the species from this proposal would be minimal. Because of this no long term or cumulative impacts are anticipated.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:
Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

Patrick Rennie MT DNRC Archeologist was contacted about this proposal and the following response about the proposal was received from Patrick; "Because past cultural resource inventory work has occurred near and partially within the area of potential effected LUL request, with negative results, I see no cultural resource concerns".

11. AESTHETICS:
Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

This project proposal will be of short duration and should not affect the overall aesthetics of the surrounding area.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:
Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

The list of current easements and Land Use Licenses that have been granted on the section are listed below.

Easements

D-09362	NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	Non-Exclusive	Overhead Power
Distribution	10/19/1992		
D-10631	NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	Non-Exclusive	Overhead Power
Distribution	04/18/2003		
D-10728	VIRGINIA CITY, CITY OF	Non-Exclusive	Municipal Water/Sewer
D-10818	VIRGINIA CITY, CITY OF	Non-Exclusive	Municipal Water/Sewer
D-10840	TOWN OF VIRGINIA CITY	Non-Exclusive	Overhead Power Distribution
	TOWN OF VIRGINIA CITY	Non-Exclusive	Municipal Water/Sewer
D-02587	DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	Non-Exclusive	Easement / Right of way
			11/04/1941
D-03092	NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	Non-Exclusive	Easement / Right of way
	09/14/1949		
D-07934	NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION DBA NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	Non-Exclusive	Easement / Right of way
	01/04/1983		

Land Use Licenses

License - Industrial	Active	LANE, RON & BETSY	02/28/2012	(performing a perk test)
License - Industrial	Active	LANE, RON & BETSY	10/21/2021	(alternative Drain field license)
License - Developed Recreation	Active	BUFFALO RUNNERS	02/28/2017	(annual Black Powder Shoot)
License - Rural Industrial	Active	MADISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE DEPT	02/28/2019	(Debris Transfer Station)

The section is already encumbered with a number of easements and Land Use Licenses. Another LUL of short duration should not affect the overall environmental resources of the area.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

No other plans or projects were identified during the scoping process for this section.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

No health or safety risks are posed by the granting of this license.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

The granting of an LUL will not affect commercial and agricultural activities or production in the area.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

The granting of this LUL will not affect the distribution of employment in or around Nevada City

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

The granting of this LUL will not affect the local or and or state tax base or revenues.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services.

No additional demand of government services are anticipated if this license is issued.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

There aren't any zoning regulations applicable in this area.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

The granting of this proposed license will not affect recreational activities in the Nevada City area.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

No additional housing or distribution of population is anticipated from issuing this license.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

The granting of this license will not alter the traditional lifestyle or communities in the Nevada City area.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

Granting the license will not affect the cultural uniqueness and diversity of the area.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

The granting of this easement would generate approximately \$250.00 for the Common Schools trust.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Name: Timothy Egan	Date: 7/8/2020
	Title: Dillon Unit Manager	

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

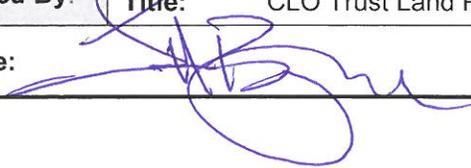
Action Alternative: Grant a Land Use License (LUL) to Circle the Globe Production to film a segment of the TV show Expedition X

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

As proposed, no significant, detrimental impacts or cumulative effects from the implementation of the selected alternative to grant a Land Use License (LUL) to Circle the Globe Production to film a segment of the TV show Expedition X are anticipated. The proposed action will authorize the use while compensating the school trust beneficiary.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

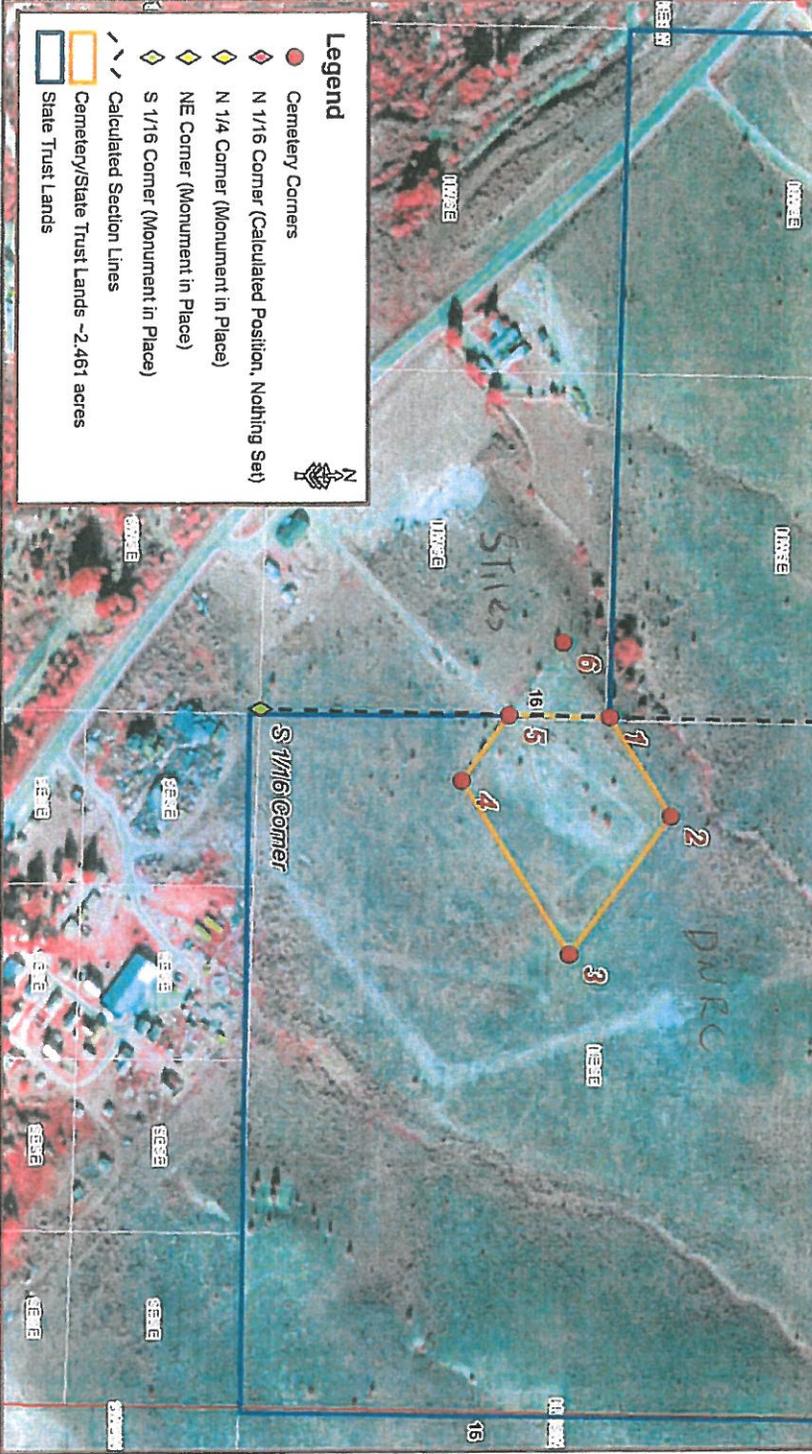
EIS More Detailed EA No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	Name: Andy Burgoyne	
	Title: CLO Trust Land Program Manager	
Signature:		Date: July 8, 2020



Nevada City Cemetery
Section 16, T6S, R3W

LABEL	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	45° 18' 39.42299" N	111° 58' 13.63957" W
2	45° 18' 40.65189" N	111° 58' 11.02388" W
3	45° 18' 38.80451" N	111° 58' 07.24429" W
4	45° 18' 36.63717" N	111° 58' 11.82801" W
5	45° 18' 37.45845" N	111° 58' 13.53703" W
6	45° 18' 38.49173" N	111° 58' 15.62075" W



Mapred By: Shawn Morgan,
DNRC Heliana Unit Forester, 02/18/2011

0 145 290 580 870 1,160 Feet

1:3,500